

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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LOS ANGELES

State Office Building, 217 West First Street MADISON 1271

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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

1938 Births May Break All Records

Nearly 50,000 Registered in California During First Half of Year

The number of births registered in California last year broke all records, exceeding the number for 1936 by almost 10,000. There were 94,286 births recorded in California last year, as compared with 84,460 in 1936. This represents an increase of more than 11 per cent.

There are now indications that 1938 will bring an even greater number of native sons and daughters, for 49,147 births were registered during the first half of 1938. During the first half of 1937, there were 44,313 births registered. This represents an increase of more than eleven per cent over a corresponding period of 1937.

These increased numbers of births are spread fairly evenly throughout the state, with the exception of the lower San Joaquin Valley, where the population has increased greatly because of migrants who have flocked into that valley from other states. Increases are particularly conspicuous in Merced, Madera, Tulare, and Kern counties. Merced reported an increase of 40 per cent; Madera, 32.5 per cent; Tulare 22 per cent; and Kern, 18 per cent. In Los Angeles County, 1,684 more births were registered during the first half of this year than during a similar period of last year. This represents an increase of ten per cent. San Francisco births

increased almost eight per cent during the first half of 1938.

Births among whites gained slightly over 1937 during the first half of this year; 82.1 per cent of all births registered in California were in members of the white race, as compared with 81.5 per cent last year. The percentage of Mexican births was lower, falling from 13.6 per cent in 1937 to 13.0 per cent in 1938. There were 6,390 Mexican births registered during the first half of this year, as compared with 6,040 births during the first six months of 1937. The percentages of Negro, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino births remained practically the same.

The numbers of births recorded annually in California since 1930, together with rates per 1,000 estimated population, are as follows:

Year	Number	Rate
1930	84,382	14.7
1931	81,553	13.9
1932	78,108	13.1
1933	75,229	12.4
1934	78,442	12.7
1935	80,222	12.8
1936	84,460	13.2
1937	94,286	14.4
1938	49,147 (Jan. to June, inc.)	---

The numbers of births by counties in California during the first six months of 1937 and 1938 are as follows:

Births by Counties in California January-June, 1937-1938

County	1938	1937
Alameda	3,530	3,319
Alpine	—	1
Amador	29	39
Butte	420	342
Calaveras	36	27
Colusa	80	67
Contra Costa	553	510
Del Norte	34	34
El Dorado	81	65
Fresno	1,519	1,335
Glenn	66	72
Humboldt	402	345
Imperial	779	717
Inyo	49	36
Kern	1,323	1,122
Kings	353	308
Lake	50	38
Lassen	147	130
Los Angeles	18,439	16,755
Madera	279	211
Marin	186	172
Mariposa	17	13
Mendocino	208	183
Merced	505	361
Modoc	59	45
Mono	2	3
Monterey	528	462
Napa	158	124
Nevada	173	141
Orange	1,030	977
Placer	154	144
Plumas	82	63
Riverside	1,016	893
Sacramento	1,292	1,227
San Benito	62	60
San Bernardino	1,382	1,281
San Diego	2,207	1,931
San Francisco	4,145	3,849
San Joaquin	967	886
San Luis Obispo	253	254
San Mateo	394	309
Santa Barbara	618	561
Santa Clara	1,177	1,116
Santa Cruz	295	283
Shasta	156	128
Sierra	11	13
Siskiyou	213	181
Solano	256	214
Sonoma	426	356
Stanislaus	637	591
Sutter	160	138
Tehama	131	129
Trinity	9	7
Tulare	1,059	868
Tuolumne	92	64
Ventura	621	554
Yolo	179	150
Yuba	118	109
Totals	49,147	44,313

Births by Race in California January-June, 1937-1938

	1938		1937	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
White	40,361	82.1	36,096	81.5
Negro	782	1.6	736	1.7
Indian	251	.5	212	.5
Chinese	265	.5	253	.6
Japanese	785	1.6	691	1.5
Mexican	6,390	13.0	6,040	13.6
Filipino	223	.5	186	.4
Others	90	.2	99	.2
Totals	49,147	100	44,313	100

SANITATION PAYS IN IMPERIAL COUNTY

"The health department did not wait for trouble to come; it made quite certain that trouble could not come," is the core of an editorial that appeared recently in the Calexico Chronicle in commenting upon the successful program of sanitation and disease prevention in the construction of the Imperial Dam and All-American Canal in Imperial County. Dr. Warren F. Fox, County Health Officer, in cooperation with the contractors, provided the following services:

1. Pure water supply and bathing facilities.
2. Proper disposal of sewage and garbage.
3. Sanitary housing.
4. Immunization against certain communicable diseases.
5. Protection of food supplies, sterilization of eating and drinking utensils, fly control.
6. Public health nursing services.

The total man-hours on the project was 10,335,351, covering three and one-half years. No cases of smallpox, typhoid or paratyphoid fever occurred. Only two cases of quarantinable diseases occurred among the workers—scarlet fever in youths 18 and 21 years of age. No major outbreaks of disease occurred, although at peak of production, nearly 4000 persons were employed on the two construction projects.

SCHOOL HEALTH CONFERENCES HELD SUCCESSFUL

The series of school health conferences, held under the auspices of the Public Health Nursing Service of the California State Department of Public Health, were successful to a marked degree. Conferences were held in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Bernardino, Bakersfield, Fresno, Stockton, San Jose, Ukiah, and Red Bluff.

Public health nurses from 48 of the 58 counties in the state were represented at these district meetings. The total attendance was more than 600, with 504 public health nurses, 20 registered nurses, 15 doctors of medicine, 6 dentists, 28 representatives of schools, and 28 other individuals present.

Gold that buys health can never be ill spent; nor hours laid out in harmless merriment.—J. Webster.

Seldom shall we see in cities, courts, and rich families, where men live plentifully and eat and drink freely, that perfect health and athletic soundness and vigor of constitution which are commonly seen in the country, where nature is the cook and the necessity the caterer, and where they have no other doctor but the sun and fresh air.—South.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING IN VENEREAL DISEASES

The extensive application of public health nursing procedures in the control of venereal diseases is relatively new. In the Sacramento City Health Department last year, 375 calls were made on delinquent venereal disease patients. The application of accepted methods in case finding and case holding is of the utmost importance in the control of these diseases.

In the annual report of the Sacramento City Department of Health, the aims of the public health nursing service in venereal disease control are stated as follows:

1. Teaching.
2. Finding sources of infection.
3. Arranging for examination of all contacts.
4. Keeping all those suffering with the disease under treatment.

These aims might be carried out by:

1. Teaching the need for medical examination and blood test before marriage.
2. Prenatal visits to instruct the mother in the importance of medical examination and blood test early, and of continuous treatment when indicated.
3. See that every infant born to a syphilitic mother be examined and kept under medical supervision.
4. See that every family contact be given a blood test.
5. See that every venereal disease patient be informed of his condition in understandable language, and that he be made to realize the importance of regular treatment and be given encouragement in developing a proper mental attitude towards his condition.
6. Recognize and assist the family with other health and social conditions.
7. Use every opportunity presented to give individual and group instruction on venereal disease control.

ALAMEDA COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT CELEBRATES

The trustees of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District celebrated the one hundredth meeting of that board on November 2, 1938. The district was organized in 1930 and has operated continuously since that time.

Nearly 13,000 acres of salt marsh land have been drained, and 150 miles of drainage ditches have been maintained in the control of fresh water mosquito breeding in several hundred miles of creek bed and in thousands of miscellaneous collections of standing water. Conspicuous success has been achieved. Garden ponds, sewage catch basins, "man-holes," dairy drains, cesspools, and septic tanks have been inspected

regularly. Wherever possible, a program of oiling for the destruction of larvae has been carried on. Garden pools and other collections of standing water have been stocked with mosquito fish, and other abatement procedures have been carried on.

SACRAMENTO HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The Sacramento City Health Department's annual report has been issued by Dr. Herbert F. True, the City Health Officer. Many outstanding accomplishments have been made during the past year. Among them, are the following:

54.5 per cent of the elementary school population has been immunized against diphtheria, and 77.9 per cent has been vaccinated against smallpox. The per capita cost of the entire health department in 1937, after excluding activities such as emergency hospital, public pound, and cemetery which are not ordinarily included in public health service, was 92 cents. Revenues, chiefly from food, market, sanitary, and plumbing inspections, reduced the actual per capita cost to taxpayers to 37 cents per capita. It is doubtful that any city in California provides such high-grade service at such a low cost to the taxpayers.

The clinics maintained by the Sacramento City Health Department are conducted most capably, and the venereal disease clinic is regarded as a model.

In the printed report, at the request of Dr. True, the Director of the State Department of Public Health, Dr. Walter M. Dickie, contributed the following in appreciation of the efficiency of the Sacramento City Department of Public Health:

"Sacramento is the cradle of public health in California. It was here that pioneer medical men laid the foundations in the city government of this growing public service.

"Times and customs have changed since those pioneer days, but the desire to serve mankind—to prevent and relieve his physical sufferings—remains the same today. Modern efficiency in engineering, medicine and public health administration has brought changed methods of procedure with results in life saving and postponement of death that in the days of '49 would have been considered miraculous.

"The conquest of typhoid fever and diphtheria alone constitute a memorial to the vision of those pioneers of medicine. The provision and maintenance today of efficient modern public health machinery indicates the community's continued desire to serve—to promote health and prevent disease. It is largely through this spirit that mankind and his governmental activities advance."

MORBIDITY

Complete Report for Following Diseases for Week Ending
October 29, 1938

Chickenpox

279 cases: Alameda County 12, Berkeley 1, Hayward 12, Oakland 36, Contra Costa County 6, Martinez 5, Richmond 2, Fresno County 5, Fresno 2, Reedley 2, Humboldt County 16, Imperial County 1, Brawley 1, Kern County 4, Bakersfield 2, Los Angeles County 4, Burbank 1, Compton 1, Glendale 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 9, Pasadena 1, Pomona 2, San Gabriel 1, Mill Valley 5, Merced County 1, Atwater 2, Monterey County 8, Orange County 5, Santa Ana 5, Placentia 1, Sacramento 4, Ontario 7, San Diego County 4, Escondido 1, National City 1, San Diego 7, San Francisco 54, San Joaquin County 12, Stockton 10, San Luis Obispo 1, Redwood City 1, San Bruno 2, Santa Barbara County 8, Santa Clara County 2, Sunnyvale 4, Santa Cruz County 2, Solano County 1, Modesto 1, Tuolumne County 1, Ventura County 1.

Diphtheria

25 cases: Oakland 1, Fresno County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 10, Orange County 1, Placentia 2, San Diego 2, San Francisco 1, San Mateo County 1, San Jose 1, Sunnyvale 1, Ventura County 1, Ojai 1.

German Measles

20 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 2, Oakland 2, Calaveras County 1, Corcoran 1, Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 4, Pasadena 1, San Gabriel 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 7, San Jose 1, Tehama County 3.

Influenza

8 cases: El Monte 1, Los Angeles 5, La Habra 1, Sacramento 1.

Malaria

21 cases: Butte County 1, Biggs 12, Atwater 1, Sacramento County 1, San Joaquin County 2, Solano County 1, Yolo County 1, Marysville 1, California 1.*

Measles

288 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 46, Calaveras County 3, Contra Costa County 1, Martinez 2, Pittsburg 2, Fresno County 2, Glenn County 4, Humboldt County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Compton 1, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 10, Santa Monica 3, Monterey County 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 2, Plumas County 46, Riverside County 3, Sacramento County 3, San Benito County 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 120, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 1, San Bruno 1, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 8, San Jose 13, Tehama County 1.

Mumps

386 cases: Alameda County 20, Berkeley 69, Emeryville 9, Oakland 69, Contra Costa County 30, Pittsburg 2, Walnut Creek 1, Fresno 1, Sanger 2, Kern County 4, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 18, Alhambra 1, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 8, Monrovia 1, Montebello 1, Sierra Madre 4, Madera County 2, Mendocino County 3, Ukiah 7, Merced County 27, Los Banos 3, Merced 11, Monterey County 1, Napa 1, Orange County 4, Orange 1, Santa Ana 1, Riverside 4, Sacramento County 6, Sacramento 11, San Diego County 2, San Diego 8, San Francisco 17, San Joaquin County 3, Stockton 6, San Mateo County 3, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 6, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 6, Santa Cruz County 2, Stanislaus County 2, Davis 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

38 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Fresno County 1, Bishop 1, Los Angeles County 3, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 17, Santa Ana 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 4, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 1, San Jose 2.

Scarlet Fever

183 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 5, Butte County 5, Chico 3, Calaveras County 1, Contra Costa County 1, Antioch 2, Fresno County 4, El Centro 1, Kern County 6, Hanford 3, Los Angeles County 18, Glendale 2, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 34, Pasadena 5, Redondo 1, Santa Monica 2, Sierra Madre 1, Whittier 2, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 1, Signal Hill 1, Bell 1, Madera County 1, Merced County 1, Monterey 1, Orange County 3, Anaheim 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana 5, Placer County 1, Lincoln 4, Plumas County 1, Riverside County 1, Corona 7, Hemet 1, Riverside 1, Palm Springs 1, Sacramento County 2, Escondido 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 6, San Joaquin County 2, Lodi 3, Manteca 1, San Luis Obispo County 4, San Mateo County 1, Redwood City 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Clara County 6, San Jose 2, Watsonville 3, Vacaville 1, Stanislaus County 3, Modesto 1, Oakdale 1, Tulare County 1, Yolo County 1, Yuba County 2.

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

Smallpox

10 cases: Kern County 1, Compton 9.

Typhoid Fever

9 cases: Fresno County 2, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 2, Sacramento County 2, Stanislaus County 2.

Whooping Cough

140 cases: Berkeley 3, Oakland 12, San Leandro 2, Butte County 1, Fresno County 1, Reedley 2, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 3, Alhambra 1, Claremont 1, El Monte 1, Los Angeles 34, Pasadena 5, Whittier 2, Mendocino County 2, Sacramento 2, San Benito County 1, San Diego County 2, La Mesa 2, San Diego 14, San Francisco 24, Daly City 2, Lompoc 5, Santa Barbara 1, San Jose 5, Stanislaus County 1, Ventura County 4, Oxnard 2, Ventura 1, Yuba County 1.

Anthrax

One case: Colusa County.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

One case: Fresno County.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

27 cases: Berkeley 2, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 11, Pasadena 1, Madera County 3, Chowchilla 4, Sonoma County 5.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

One case: Los Angeles County.

Pellagra

2 cases: Los Angeles 1, Stockton 1.

Trachoma

18 cases: Indio.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Contra Costa County 1, Merced County 1.

Paratyphoid Fever

One case: Pomona.

Trichinosis

2 cases: Oakland 1, Santa Clara 1.

Typhus Fever

One case: Los Angeles.

Food Poisoning

17 cases: San Clemente 13, San Francisco 4.

Undulant Fever

3 cases: Glendale 1, Pasadena 1, San Jose 1.

Coccidioides Granuloma

2 cases: Kern County 1, Solano County 1.

Rabies (Animal)

33 cases: Kern County 2, Bakersfield 3, Los Angeles County 6, Los Angeles 9, Riverside County 2, Hollister 2, San Joaquin County 1, Stanislaus County 7, Tulare County 1.

In 1937, 885 deaths from venereal diseases were recorded in this state, and in 1936, 807 such deaths were registered. Without doubt, the actual numbers of deaths due to venereal diseases were much greater. A large proportion of the deaths recorded as due to heart disease were, in reality, due to syphilis. It would seem that the time may be fast approaching when the true cause of death will appear upon the death certificates.

HAMILTON H. ANDERSON, M.D.
DEPT. OF PHARMACOLOGY
UNIV. OF CAL. MEDICAL
SCHOOL